

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions, wherein said ideas include needs and requirements of said inventions; and

(b) systematically establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to the database to transfer property rights to inventions derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas, ~~wherein said transfer is for;~~ and

(c) providing contingent economic gain to said contractually obligated contributors.

3. (original) A method according to Claim 2, wherein step (b) is performed by using at least one computer.

Claims 4-31 (canceled)

32. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(e) (d) systematically entering into said database all ideas contributed for entry into said database.

Claims 33 and 34 (canceled)

35. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

~~(e)~~ (d) systematically entering into said database ideas contributed for entry into said database without requiring any contributor of said ideas to have subject matter expertise as a prerequisite for entry of said contributions.

Claims 36-38 (canceled)

39. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

~~(e)~~ (d) requiring persons to enter into a membership as a prerequisite for viewing a portion of said database containing at least some of said accumulated ideas.

40. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

~~(e)~~ (d) requiring contributors of ideas for prospective entry into said database to enter into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas for entry into said database.

41. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

~~(e)~~ (d) facilitating preparation and/or filing of patent applications for at least some inventions derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas.

42. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(e) (d) auctioning at least some right under the patent rights to at least some inventions derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas.

43. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(e) (d) recording a time of receipt of each idea contributed for entry into said database.

44. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(e) (d) recording a time of publication in said database of each accumulated idea.

45. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(e) (d) recording a time of first public viewing from said database of each accumulated idea.

46. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(e) (d) providing contingent contractual rights to at least some inventions derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas.

47. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(d) enabling ideas contributed to said database to be integrated within said database to thereby facilitate derivation of inventions from said integrated ideas.

48. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(e) (d) systematically establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to permit immediate public disclosure of said ideas contributed by said contributors.

Claims 49-66 (canceled)

67. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 2, wherein each step is performed systematically.

Claim 68 (canceled)

69. (currently amended) A computer readable storage medium(media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer(s) to manage ideas, wherein the instructions cause the computer(s) to perform the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions, wherein said ideas include needs and requirements of said inventions; and

(b) systematically establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to the database to transfer property rights to inventions derived at least in part from

said accumulated ideas, ~~wherein said transfer is for; and~~

(c) providing contingent economic gain to said contractually obligated contributors.

Claims 70-76 (canceled)

77. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 40, wherein each step is performed systematically.

78. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 45, wherein each step is performed systematically.

79. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 47, wherein each step is performed systematically.

80. (new) A method according to Claim 2, wherein said contingent economic gain includes contingent contractual rights.

81. (new) A method according to Claim 80, wherein said contingent contractual rights include rights to a portion of anticipated income derived from property rights under the patent rights to prospectively patentable inventions derived at least in part from the ideas contributed by the contributors whom receive such contingent contractual rights.

82. (new) A method according to Claim 2, wherein said contingent economic gain includes shares of a portfolio of contingent contractual rights.

83. (new) A method according to Claim 2, wherein said contingent economic gain includes shares of stock in a proprietor of said database or a party in concert with the database proprietor.

84. (new) A method according to Claim 2, wherein step (c) is in exchange for acquiring or facilitating transfer of at least some of said property rights.

85. (new) A method according to Claim 2, wherein step (c) is performed systematically by using at least one computer.

86. (new) A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions; and

(b) providing contingent economic gain to contributors of said ideas accumulated in the database.

87. (new) A method according to Claim 86, wherein said ideas include needs and requirements of said inventions, and

wherein step (b) comprises the step of:

(c) providing said contingent economic gain to contributors of needs and/or requirements of said inventions.

88. (new) A method according to Claim 86, wherein said contingent economic gain includes contingent contractual rights.

89. (new) A method according to Claim 88, wherein said contingent contractual rights include rights to a portion of anticipated income derived from property rights under the patent rights to prospectively patentable inventions derived at least in part from the ideas contributed by the contributors whom receive such contingent contractual rights.

90. (new) A method according to Claim 86, wherein said contingent economic gain includes shares of a portfolio of contingent contractual rights.

91. (new) A method according to Claim 86, wherein said contingent economic gain includes shares of stock in a proprietor of said database or a party in concert with the database proprietor.

92. (new) A method according to Claim 86, wherein step (c) is in exchange for acquiring or facilitating transfer of at least some of said property rights.

93. (new) A method according to Claim 86, wherein step (c) is performed systematically by using at least one computer.

94. (new) A computer readable storage medium(media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer(s) to manage ideas, wherein the instructions cause the computer(s) to perform the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions; and

(b) providing contingent economic gain to contributors of said ideas accumulated in the database.